Saying Goodbye to the Gustafsons

Bethaney Martin • Editor-in-Chief

Pete and Donna Gustafson have long been an integral part of Rose-Hulman.

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Write for the Rose Thorn!
Weekly meeting Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. in O259

The Rose Thorn

We are Rose-Hulman’s independent student newspaper. We keep the Rose-Hulman community informed by providing an accurate and dependable source for news and information.

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ISSUES of The Rose Thorn are published on the first through ninth Fridays of each academic quarter.

WE WEEKLY MEETINGS occur on the first through ninth Wednesdays of each academic quarter. All members of the Rose-Hulman community are welcome to attend.

SUBMISSION of articles, photographs, art, and letters to the editor is encouraged. Submissions should be sent to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or in person to Hulman Memorial Union room 249. The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday. The rights to accept submissions or changes made after the deadline, to edit submissions in so far as the original intent of the submission remains unaltered, and to reject submissions deemed inappropriate for print are reserved by the editors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR should be no longer than 600 words in length and must contain the writer’s (electronic) signature.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED herein are those of their respective authors and with the exception of the Staff View do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or the Rose-Hulman community.
Cinco De Mayo

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineering (SHPE) celebrated Cinco de Mayo this week with a cookout in the Hulman Memorial Union patio. Mexican food was served and live music was played by a mariachi band. An elephant piñata was also a part of the celebration as attendants had the opportunity to try to break it open.

Tickets to the cookout were five dollars and all the proceeds went to the Boys and Girls Club of Terre Haute. Tickets were sold out and 200 people attended. The cookout raised over $800 in proceeds, beating last year’s event by $200. According to Karina Colotl, a freshman electrical engineering major, the “money will help the Boys and Girls Club of Terre Haute” run their daily activities and help children who are in need.

This year’s celebration was organized by Colotl, who is the Programs Chair for SHPE. The annual event is put on by SHPE and helps spread cultural awareness and support charity. “It’s important that SHPE celebrates (Cinco de Mayo),” Colotl commented. “Cinco de Mayo is supposed to be spreading tradition and informing people that it’s not Mexico’s Independence Day.”

Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Battle of Puebla, which took place between the Mexican Army and French Army. The unlikely victory of the Mexican Army over the more powerful and advanced French Army is still a source of national pride and unity. Cinco de Mayo has become a celebration of Mexico’s patriotism and culture.

SHPE has several events planned for next year, the first of which is Dia de los Muertos, otherwise known as Day of the Dead. The event will again celebrate Hispanic culture on campus and educate students on its significance. SHPE will also be hosting a “Noche de Cien- cias,” or night of sciences, on campus where high school students can come and learn about STEM careers and concepts.

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineering meets Thursdays at 7:30 in the Hulman Memorial Union Music Room.

One of Mr. Gustafson’s duties as Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students is handing out their diplomas.

Photo courtesy of the Gustafson family

News Briefs

Israeli Prime Minister Forms New Coalition Government

Israeli Prime Minister Benny Gantz announced the formation of a new coalition government after a March victory for his Likud party. The government was formed the day of the deadline and will give the prime minister a one-seat majority in the Knesset, Israel’s parliament.

The coalition government consists of far-right and orthodox religious parties. In forming the government, Netanyahu made major concessions to the conservative religious party, Shas.

The Likud party made efforts to court right-leaning voters during the election, pushing the party’s platform further right of center. Critics claim that comments made by Netanyahu in the days leading up to the election were meant to exacerbate domestic tensions over Arab Israelis.

The new coalition government will likely continue with controversial initiatives, including expanding settlements in the West Bank and reducing immigration including Jewish Home, favor expanding settlements and placing greater emphasis on security and national defense.

International groups are likely to face off with the new government on controversial issues such as the expansion of Israeli settlements. Relations between Israel and the United States have already been strained by the actions of Netanyahu, who has pulled his government further right, often antagonizing the Obama administration.

Germany Accused of Helping NSA Spy on European Allie

Chancellor Angela Merkel was put in the spotlight regarding new reports that Germany’s intelligence service actively aided the United States’ National Security Agency in spying on European allies.

Germany’s foreign intelligence agency, known as BND or Federal Intelligence Service, stands accused of spying for the NSA on European companies and individuals. Gerhard Schindler, the head of the BND, denied the accusations.

A lawyer filed a legal complaint against Germany over the alleged spying done for the NSA. Legal inquiries were also filed concerning the spying on European companies. Airbus Group, a European aviation company, filed a legal complaint asking for access to information concerning economic espionage.

The new report comes after leaked documents, published by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, revealed widespread American surveillance of European allies. Chancellor Merkel was among a list of high-ranking government officials who were tracked as part of the surveillance.

The issue of American spying has been particularly acute in Germany as many citizens are outraged over the intelligence gathering. The German government has been conducting investigations into the NSA’s activities in Germany, calling officials and retired employees to testify before parliamentary inquiries.

Merkel agreed to testify before a parliamentary inquiry about the issue and answer questions regarding the information that was passed on to the NSA.

Gunmen killed after Firing into Art Gallery Contest

Two men fired into crowds Sunday at an art gallery in Dallas, Texas that was hosting a contest for cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. Dillion Simpson and Nadir Hamid travelled to a Dallas, Texas suburb and fired assault rifles at bystanders and injured a Texas that was hosting a contest for cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

Simpson, a convert to Islam, declared his allegiance to the Islamic State, otherwise known as ISIS, over Twitter. Simpson was also known to federal law enforcement and counterterrorism officials, and had been previously questioned for his links to terrorist groups.

Sofi, the owner of a dry cleaning business, was unknown to law enforcement officials and was linked to Simpson as his roommate.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack after it had occurred, praising Simpson and Sofi for their actions. However, the terrorist organization did not offer any evidence as to their involvement in the planning of the attack.

Attacks have occurred in Western countries over the depiction of the Prophet Muhammad in satirical manners. The offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French satirical magazine, were attacked, during which 12 people were killed, after publishing a cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad.

The Gustafsons have been an integral part of the history and community of Rose-Hulman. They have witnessed it grow and evolve into this place of family and higher education.

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One of Mr. Gustafson’s duties as Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students is handing out their diplomas.
Avengers: Age of Ultron

Lauren Santichen • Flipside Editor

In the newest big-screen installment of Marvel Comics, the Avengers are located in Sokovia, an Eastern European country that is base to a large branch of Hydra. The team’s mission is to find Loki’s scepter and keep it and its power source out of the hands of the enemy. Little did they know that they were playing right into their enemies’ hands.

For those who are familiar with the comics, the story of Ultron has changed drastically from paper to the big screen. Instead of being the brainchild of Dr. Hank Pym, a character not yet introduced to the Avengers universe, Ultron was created in part by Tony Stark, also known as Iron Man. Once Loki’s scepter had been retrieved, Tony Stark and Bruce Banner spent three days researching the energy and information that came from the blue core.

It was soon discovered that the core housed an Artificial Intelligence, something that Stark, in all his programming expertise, had not be able to make. Convincing Banner to help, the two slowly constructed a copy of the AI, hoping that it could help them in their quest to keep the world safe.

“I see a suit of armor around the world.” Stark says as he expands on his vision for the AI. When the program finally comes online, it sees the Avengers as a threat for its programmed goal of world peace. As things are wont to do in all comic book arcs, the program, Ultron, decides that the Avengers must become extinct.

Here we see the beginning of the major villain of the movie. Earlier, we saw a partial beginning of two other villains, Pietro and Wanda Maximoff. Otherwise known as Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch, these two were born in Sokovia during a time of war. At ten years old, they lost their parents to a time of war. At ten years old, they lost their parents to a time of war. At ten years old, they lost their parents to a time of war. At ten years old, they lost their parents to a time of war. At ten years old, they lost their parents to a time of war.

Overall, “Avengers: Age of Ultron” was a great installment in the series. It had just the right amount of action scenes and character development to please the audience. In-between the butt-kicking, shield-throwing, and lightning-calling were quips about subjects that only those on a team together would be able to tease about, like the rivalry between Stark and Thor over whose girlfriend is best and Captain America’s slip up of “language” over the communicators. Little things that make the movie that much better.

The movie was great from start to finish and kept me on the edge of my seat. I give it a 5 out of 5 for scenes, plot, and characters. It has me eagerly awaiting the next installment of Marvel Comics film, even if my favorite character may not be in it.

Rating: 5/5 Rosies

Daredevil

Mark Rodgers • Opinions Editor

Superheroes are everywhere we look now, springing from comics to mega-blockbuster movies and now TV shows as well. There have been many cartoons before, but now live-action superhero shows are becoming more marketable, and therefore, more common. This is how we find ourselves with Netflix entering the ring with their licensed superhero from Marvel, Daredevil.

This series was highly anticipated, mainly because nobody quite knew what to expect from this series. The last time Daredevil had his own anything was the atrocious Ben Affleck movie in 2003, and that’s better forgotten.

The inaugural season follows the beginnings of Matt Murdock, aka Daredevil (Charlie Cox), as he “becomes the hero he was meant to be.” You know, the typical superhero stuff we know by now. For those who don’t know, Daredevil is, in the simplest terms, a blind Batman. It is quite ironic that that is the common comparison, since in that bad movie I mentioned earlier, Ben Affleck is Daredevil and is now set to play the caped crusader in the Justice League teaser movie next year. Murdock is blinded as a child and, in true comic fashion, develops unusual abilities. In this case, he gains a “radar” sense that allows him to “see” his surroundings, and after some tough training, he can take down bad guys using his impressive set of martial arts skills.

The fight scenes in this show were the biggest surprise to me. They have a completely different tone than a normal superhero movie; they feel real. Daredevil, even with his enhanced senses, isn’t perfect or indestructible. He gets hurt (a lot) and doesn’t mop the floor with every bad guy he meets. The bad guys actually put up a good fight, knocking Daredevil on his butt about as often as he does to them. It’s a real spectacle to watch and a much welcome change from the CGI-fest that other movies have gone with.

This series is unique in that its episode count is half the size as a normal TV series, having 13 episodes as opposed to the 22 on a typical network show such as “Arrow” or Marvel’s “Agents of Shield.” This makes it much better because, in true Netflix fashion, the whole season dropped at once, facilitating a binge on the whole series without the need of a frustrating “mid-season finale,” followed by a month of waiting that has become the annoying norm for network shows.

I actually have started to prefer TV-based superhero shows to the movies recently. I don’t have to wait as long to see them, and there is so much more room for character development that only the interconnected Marvel movies come close to accomplishing, and even then not as well as it could be. Because of this, I find myself getting attached to the characters with ease as I see them evolve with each episode. I even find myself respecting the villain of this first season, who I won’t name since it is supposed to be killed as a “surprise” a couple of episodes in.

I am very pleased with this show and what it has accomplished for Marvel and Netflix. It has made me confident in Netflix’s capacity to create good entertainment, which makes me want them to hire the former “Top Gear” presenters even more, but that’s a discussion for another day.

Rating: 5/5 Rosies
Amiibo No
The Sad Lifestyle of an Amiibo Collector

Everyone moment is spent waiting for the opportunity to pounce. Even a few seconds’ delay could mean failing to acquire the amiibo. Class is spent scrawling through forums, hoping for new information about figures or news of stock. The end of second period class means a quick trip to the shopping center. Each major amiibo retailer opens at 10 a.m., in time for store open. Glancing over the store shelves can mean victory or defeat.

The collector has set up an intricate Excel spreadsheet for monitoring the figures he has acquired. Checking them off one by one, there are giant holes in the spreadsheet that seemingly will never be filled. The rest of the day is spent periodically reading new speculation about what amiibo may or may not be getting new production runs. Hopes are continually crushed as new information comes to light about how few units are going to be produced.

In rage and disappointment, the lone collector resorts to buying import version of the amiibo from other countries, which are somehow easier and cheaper to acquire than their American counterparts. He denounces Nintendo and their business practices, vowing to never support them again. The next day, he checks his alerts and continues his futile task. This is the lifestyle of an amiibo collector.

The special gold Mario amiibo. engadget.com

An Intro to Soccer: The Most Popular Sport Around the Globe

Soccer fans are just like fans of any other sports.

Soccer is an international sport that most people enjoy. Soccer is the most popular sport around the globe, with about 3.6 billion supporters worldwide. The amount of people who play soccer regularly, whether professionally or as a part of an intramural league, numbers close to the amount of fans for American football. Numbers aside, most of the American populace is comparatively ignorant of the sport and the inner workings of it.

A common complaint against the sport is that it can end 0-0, and there can be long pauses between the action in the game. Looking at sports like baseball, NASCAR, golf, and American football, it is possible to find complaints like the ones given to soccer easily justifiable considering the sports Americans typically enjoy.

As an avid supporter of the beautiful game that is soccer, I shall to be as informative and hopefully entertaining as I discuss the lifestyle of a soccer fan.

First, it should be established that soccer fans are just like fans of any other sport. They all have a favorite team and will defend them tooth and nail.

They have been fans since they were small, as they are often raised in a soccer-loving home. Since soccer is a massively international sport, as evidenced by the semi-recent World Cup, many fans have favorite teams for each competitive country. Also, like many other sports, fans often emulate their favorite players, usually by playing soccer themselves in a friendly setting.

Overall, it is important for the uninformed to understand that soccer is not so different from many domestic sports. It exposes a fan to a massive global community, with a shared common interest. So let’s all have a cup of coffee and a piece of pie.
A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed “Question Mark” by Alex Weissенfelс in the Rose Thorn today. I am a Christian and I fully understand the challenges that Mark Slaughter faced in trying to adequately demonstrate the reality of God to a group prepared to negate anything other than physical proof. From a textbook standpoint, it cannot be done. But from an experience standpoint, it cannot be negated. For example, what if someone lived in isolation and never experienced love? Or someone was born in Space, but had never experienced gravity? Your experience with these things are absolutely real. But try and explain that to someone who hasn’t experienced them. It’s like trying to explain the color red to someone who has been blind their whole life. Without context, it’s impossible. But it doesn’t make it any less real.

And your assertions of Free Will in Christianity were a hit off-base. Free Will is what allows us to operate freely outside of God’s plan for us – the ability to make our own decisions and determinations. It has nothing to do with neglecting responsibilities for child rearing or interventions or to not intervene when there is imminent harm. It has to do with our relationship with God – He doesn’t want a bunch of mindless robots that are pre-programmed to follow Him. That’s why Christianity is a “journey of faith” as opposed to a “one-time contract”. But that journey starts with a decision. And we can each decide if we want God in our lives or if we don’t. That’s free will.

So, you haven’t experienced God. That’s okay. The barrier of logic is completely understandable. I’ve been there. But after several years, I got curious and noticed some people who functioned differently and I was drawn to that. I started asking questions, but still generally doubted. But when I was ready for more, God was ready to reveal Himself to me through these relationships and gentle guidance. That has been my experience.

But back to physical proof. There isn’t any. The two major facets of Christianity are faith and love. And faith is difficult, but we all have faith in something – whether it’s God or self-improvement-based paradigms. And you’re right – faith can achieve community and emotional satisfaction outside of Christianity. And, sorry to say, there have been many self-proclaimed Christians who have done more damage than good when it comes to promoting the church. That being said, I don’t have all of the answers and won’t pretend to. All I can do is share my experience and live life in a way that shows that God matters to me. And I don’t help someone who isn’t willing to be helped. Saving a friend struggle can be the most difficult, hurtful and frustrating thing you’ve ever done. But that journey starts with a decision. And we can each decide if we want God in our lives or if we don’t. That’s free will.

But there are so many people who have been blind to God – either through their own choice or by being so focused on their own self-centered world. It’s easy to sit outside a situation and talk about what you would do in their shoes, but the bottom line is that you don’t know until it actually happens to you. Have faith in the strength of their character, and help them by believing in their good decisions and not condemning them for the bad. Getting to a place where they can build themselves back up again may require hitting the cold, solid ground of rock bottom. Don’t abandon them when they are on the verge of building themselves back up just because their struggle is distracting to you. It’s not your responsibility to fix it or be their clean up man, and it’s important to draw that boundary so you can support but not enable. Stay strong and help light the way to recovery.

Thanks for sharing your experience from the Q&A session with Mark Slaughter. It got me thinking, which is never a bad thing.

Eric Louk
Training and Development Specialist

Helping Those Who Can’t be Helped

Sometimes helping someone means leaving them alone, as difficult as that may be. You can’t help someone who isn’t willing to be helped. Watching a friend struggle can be the most difficult, hurtful and frustrating thing you’ve ever done. But you can’t always make it any less real.

But when I was ready for more, God was ready to reveal Himself to me through these relationships and gentle guidance. That has been my experience. But back to physical proof. There isn’t any. The two major facets of Christianity are faith and love. And faith is difficult, but we all have faith in something – whether it’s God or self-improvement-based paradigms. And you’re right – faith can achieve community and emotional satisfaction outside of Christianity. And, sorry to say, there have been many self-proclaimed Christians who have done more damage than good when it comes to promoting the church. That being said, I don’t have all of the answers and won’t pretend to. All I can do is share my experience and live life in a way that shows that God matters to me. And I don’t help someone who isn’t willing to be helped. Saving a friend struggle can be the most difficult, hurtful and frustrating thing you’ve ever done. But that journey starts with a decision. And we can each decide if we want God in our lives or if we don’t. That’s free will.

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Eric Louk
Training and Development Specialist

Love them unconditionally during their time of need

Be there to talk, or someday they’ll just stop calling you. Your advice may not be taken, but don’t hold it against them. Someone who doesn’t mean themselves isn’t going to take a leap of faith on your word alone; they have to build up enough confidence in themselves to make an independent decision. Tell them how you feel, and show them how their choices affect them people they care about, including you, but don’t guilt trip them. They probably already feel bad enough on their own; don’t reiterate each and every way that they’re messing things up. Furthermore, how do you know that they aren’t doing everything they can do to fix the problem? It’s easy to sit outside a situation and talk about what you would do in their shoes, but the bottom line is that you don’t know until it actually happens to you. Have faith in the strength of their character, and help them by believing in their good decisions and not condemning them for the bad. Getting to a place where they can build themselves back up again may require hitting the cold, solid ground of rock bottom. Don’t abandon them when they are on the verge of building themselves back up just because their struggle is distracting to you. It’s not your responsibility to fix it or be their clean up man, and it’s important to draw that boundary so you can support but not enable. Stay strong and help light the way to recovery.

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Training and Development Specialist

Love them unconditionally during their time of need

Love them unconditionally during their time of need; you never know when the tables will turn and you’ll be the one who needs the strength of your friends. Don’t indulge them and facilitate their making of poor decisions, but support them as they make their own errors and catch them when they fall.

There are definitely some people that could use a hug even if they don’t seem like it.

Photo courtesy of TinyBuddha

Love them unconditionally during their time of need
Invitational at IU
Kevin Trizna • Staff writer

One week removed from the HCAC title, the Rose track team sent individual athletes to the Billy Hayes Invitational at Indiana University. These participants performed outstandingly against some of the Midwest's best athletes across all divisions.

Sophomore Andrew Okruch, the conference shot put title holder, won the shot put again with a 14.74-meter throw. Okruch went on to place second in the discus with a 48.58-meter throw.

Senior Austin Schulttles followed up Okruch in discus, added a career personal record throw of 158’ 6” and placing third. Schulttles also threw 173’ 9” in the javelin throw, earning a third-place finish.

Fellow senior Blake Schulttles had a personal record of his own in the pole vault (15’ 3”) and sixth in the javelin throw and eighth in the 110m hurdles.

Senior Zach Erta took ninth in the hammer throw with a 162’ 2” toss. Freshman Fedckeren Hekken, who was a part of the record-shattering 4x400-meter relay team, highlighted the women's eventswith a personal record in the 400-meter (1:00.96), good for eighth.

The next meet for the track team is the University of Louis-ville Invitational where only selected individuals will compete.

Rose also placed first in the men's All-Sports Standing, which is essentially the same as the Commissioner's Cup but only applies to male athletes. The men's team racked up 73.5 points because every team finished in the top five of their conference. Cross-country, soccer, tennis, track, and swimming teams won their respective conferences outright.

The women's athletic programs placed third in their respective all-sports rankings with 56.8 points. These points were supplemented by second place finishes by tennis and golf and a third place finish by soccer.

This year marks the ninth year of the Commissioner's Cup's existence, and the victory by the Fightin' Engineers makes Rose the first school to win the cup four times.

HCAC: Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; RBI: Runners Batted In

The baseball team took a 2-1 record in the three-game series against Mount. St. Joseph College (MSJ) this weekend, and in doing so earned place in the HCAC Tournament. The first game was a battle of pitching and junior Karson Nixon threw an excellent game, allowing six hits and only one run to pitch his fifth win of the season.

The second game ended in a tie in the top of the fifth with a fifth overall ranking. After a combined 323/314 in the first two rounds last weekend that they are the true uncontested champions and beat Earlham in the conference tournament champions to take home another accolade.

After taking down Transylvania in the tournament semifinal, the Fightin' Engineers brought home the title in a 6-1 victory for the Earlham Quakers.

Earham started off the match with an 8-4 win in first doubles as the duo of Vitali Stadnyk and Jack Ventura-Cruess took down sophomores Brandon Benedict and Georges Adam. From there, it was all Rose-Huntington. The second doubles pair of freshman Cam
"On a scale of one to Jurassic Park, it is Volcanoland."

Tourist Destinations of the Rose-Hulman Campus

1. Naked lady riding a fish
2. President’s parking spot
3. New hand dryers in Crapo bathrooms
4. High Bay Lab (where people find their Bae)
5. Perimeter road
6. Bed of nails in the Physics Department
7. Floating Platform (no platform is a safe platform)
8. Rose-Hulman Water Tower
9. Rifle Club Ruins
10. "She does math!" (Perimeter time trial!) pink book in Crapo trophy cabinet

Fact of the Week

In 1923, jockey Frank Hayes won a race at Belmont Park in New York despite being dead—he suffered a heart attack mid-race, but his body stayed in the saddle until his horse crossed the line for a 20-1 outsider victory.

Engineering jokes

Have you heard the one about the sick chemist? If you can’t helium, and you can’t curium, you’ll probably have to barium.

Hi there! Lauren Santichen here to remind you that today is the last day to drop a class! I had some tough classes this time, but thankfully I managed to stick ‘em out and hopefully I won’t have to take them ever again! Anyway, enough about that! If you have any comments, questions or concerns about the paper, feel free to email me at thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu. I’m always looking for the next joke or good laugh! If you have any ideas, please send them my way. Catch you next week on the Flipside! Summer count down: 22.